

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

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R 172358Z JAN 75

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8832

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0163

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, VS, VN, SZ, US

SUBJECT: PRG LIAISON OFFICE IN GENEVA

1. FOLLOWING MIKE BERLIN STORY IN NEW YORK POST JANUARY 17 WHICH QUOTED UN SOURCES AS SAYING SECSTATE HAD EXPRESSED NO OBJECTION TO ESTABLISHMENT OF PRG OFFICE IN GENEVA AND UN NOON PRESS BRIEFING WHICH MADE SIMILAR CLAIMS IN RESPONSE DIRECT QUESTION, AFTERNOON WAS FULL OF TELEPHONE CALLS, PROTESTS AND EXPLANATIONS. AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER, DEPARTMENT AND USUN OFFICIALS WERE ON THE TELEPHONE WITH WALDHEIM, URQUHART AND GUYER RESPECTIVELY. IN UNMISTAKEABLE TERMS, USG OFFICIALS MADE KNOWN THEIR ANGER AT COMMENTS OF UN SPOKESMAN. SYG AND ASSOCIATES THEN MADE 180 DEGREE TURN AND ISSUED CLARIFYING STATEMENT BY UN PRESS SPOKESMAN AT SIX P.M.

2. LATER, USUN RECEIVED SEPARATE CALLS FROM WALDHEIM, URQUHART AND GUYER EXPRESSING DEEP APOLOGIES FOR EARLIER MISLEADING STATEMENTS.

3. SIX P.M. UN PRESS STATEMENT FOLLOWS:

QUOTE A. THE SECRETARY GENERAL HAS ASKED ME TO CORRECT A
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MISSTATEMENT OF FACT IN THE SPOKESMAN'S BRIEFING THIS MORNING.

IN THAT BRIEFING THERE WAS A QUESTION WHETHER NO OBJECTION HAD BEEN MADE "AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL" OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PRG LIAISON OFFICE FOR HUMANITARIAN MATTERS IN GENEVA.

B. IN ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION, I INDICATED THAT SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER HAD RAISED NO OBJECTION. I WISH TO CORRECT THIS STATEMENT. THE OBJECTION OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS LIAISON OFFICE HAS (UNDERLINED) BEEN MADE CLEAR TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL BOTH BY SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER AND BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES, AMBASSADOR SCALI, AND MEMBERS OF HIS MISSION.

C. THIS IS THE END OF MY PULLBACK.

Q & A

WHY DID YOU MAKE THE STATEMENT THIS MORNING?

A. I WAS NOT FULLY BRIEFED.

Q. WHEN DID KISSINGER RAISE HIS OBJECTION?

A. WHEN KISSINGER SAW THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON DECEMBER 21. AMBASSADOR SCALI AND MEMBERS OF HIS MISSION REGISTERED OBJECTIONS PRIOR TO AND SINCE THEN.

Q. WHY WAS THERE A NEED FOR THE PRG MISSION?

A. THE SECRETARY GENERAL FELT IT NECESSARY FOR HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS. END QUOTE
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